highlighted the Accord reached between the Government of India and TNV on August 12, 1988. It also claimed that following the Memorandum of Settlement reached between the Government of India and the MNF, Mr. B. K. Hrangkhawl, the TNV President had approached Shri Lalthanhawla, former Mizoram Chief Minister and President, Mizoram Pradesh Congress Committee-I to mediate between the TNV and the Government of India. The bi-weekly has published the text of letters purportedly exchanged between Shri B. K. Hrangkhawl and Shri Lalthanhawla between October and December 1987, in which Shri Hrangkhawl has requested Shri Lalthanhawla to take initiative for arrangng talks between the TNV and the Government of India He had also expressed willingness to solve the TNV problem within the frame work of the Indian Constitution. He had also demanded immediate dissolution of CPI(M) Ministry of Tripura and cease-fire on both sides.

Export of Horticulture Products

1616. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that horticulture products have got great export potential and if so, what is the present export of horticulture products; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to fully utilise the above export potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The exports of horticulture products during 1987-88 were as follows: —

	Quantity (M. Tonnes)	Value (Rs. lakh)
Fresh fruits & Vegetables . .	198507	9298
Preserved fruits & Vegetables . .	38120	3913

(b) Incentives such as cash compensatory support, import replenishment, duty drawback on packing material etc. being granted to exporters are expected to boost the export of horticulture products.

Compulsory retirement of Inefficient and Corrupt Officers in Punjab

1617. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government had taken a decision last month to compulsorily retire inefficient and corrupt officers above the age of 50 years;

(b) if so, what is the number of officers in whose cases such action is being taken;

(c) whether such action would also be taken against officers below 50 years but found to be corrupt and inefficient; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) According to Rule 3(1)(A) of Punjab Civil Services (Premature Retirement) Rules, 1975, a Government employee after rendering 25 years qualifying service or on attaining the age of 50 years can be retired prematurely. However, as a measure of penalty any inefficient and corrupt Government employee can be compulsorily retired from Government service under the provision of Punjab Civil Service (Punishment and Appeal) Rules, 1970 after following the proce-